

The background is a dark brown color with a repeating pattern of golden musical staves, notes, and stars. The staves are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with notes and stars scattered throughout. The word "MELODY" is written in a large, golden, serif font, centered in the upper half of the image.

# MELODY

“God Rest Ye  
Merry Gentlemen”

Luke 2:8-21



# Fear not...

**Luke 1:13** But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”

**Luke 1:30** And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.”

**Matthew 1:20** “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”



# THE TOP PHOBIA IN EACH STATE



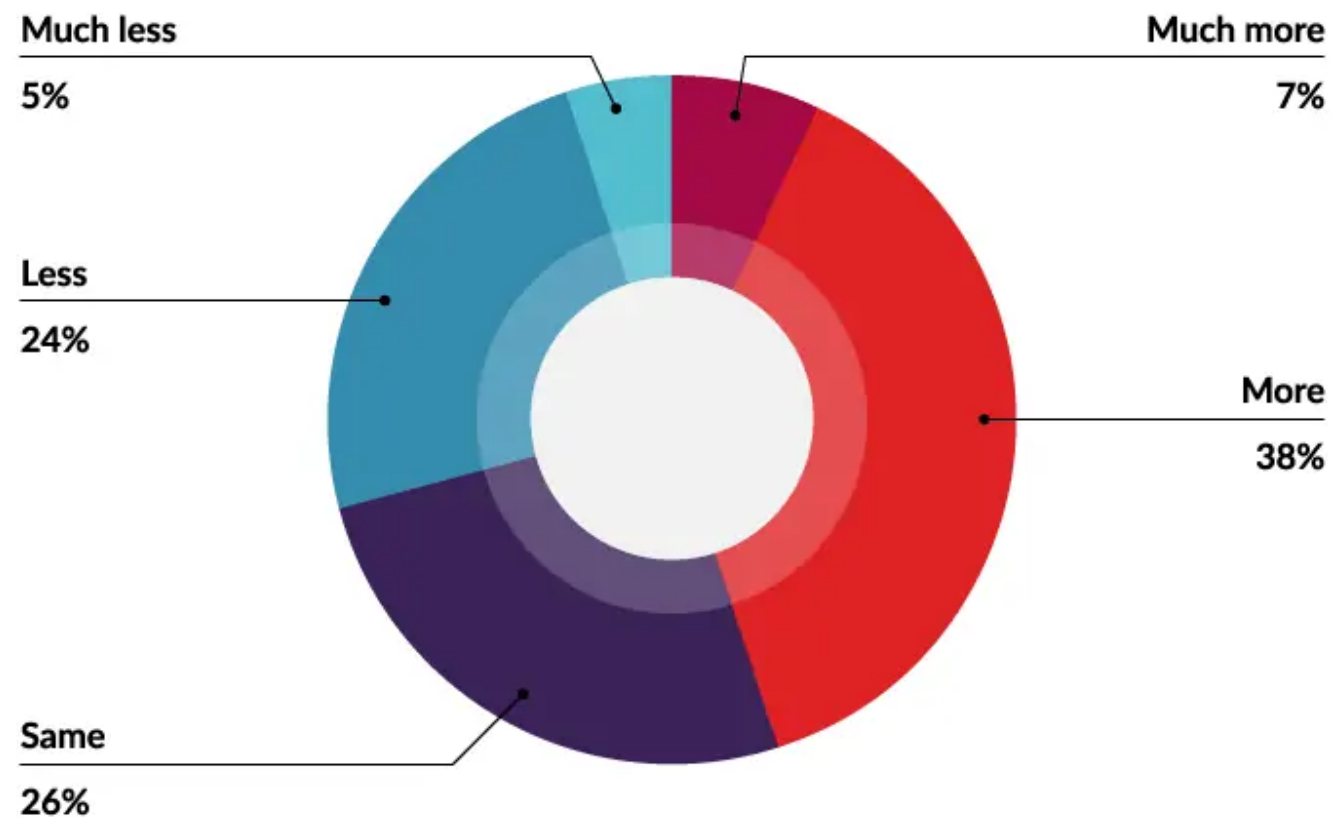


## Top 10 overall fears

	Fear score	Percent "afraid" or "very afraid"
1 Loved ones dying	94	65%
2 Loved ones becoming seriously ill	93	64%
3 Mass shootings	89	60%
4 Not having enough money for retirement	80	54%
5 Terrorism	78	50%
6 Government corruption	78	52%
7 Becoming terminally ill	77	50%
8 Hate crimes	76	51%
9 High medical bills	76	51%
10 Widespread civil unrest	75	49%



## Anxiety levels today compared to one year ago





# Fear not, for...

1. I bring you good news of great joy

>>> *God has acted*

2. This news is for all people

>>> *God acts for the very least*

3. Today the Christ, a Savior, has been born

>>> *God saves and does as he says he will*

4. You may go see it

>>> *God verifies his work*



# God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ, our Savior  
Was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray

*Chorus:*  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem, in Israel  
This blessed Babe was born  
And laid within a manger  
Upon this blessed morn  
To which His Mother Mary  
Did nothing take in scorn

From God our Heavenly Father  
A blessed Angel came  
And unto certain Shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by Name



# God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

"Fear not then", said the Angel  
"Let nothing you affright  
This day is born a Savior  
Of a pure Virgin bright  
To free all those who trust in Him  
From Satan's power and might"

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind  
And left their flocks a-feeding  
In tempest, storm and wind  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
The Son of God to find

And when they came to Bethlehem  
Where our dear Savior lay  
They found Him in a manger  
Where oxen feed on hay  
His Mother Mary kneeling down  
Unto the Lord did pray

Now to the Lord sing praises  
All you within this place  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All other doth deface



# History

- Written in the 15<sup>th</sup> century
- Writer unknown
- An example of the type of song beloved by commoners with its light and lively melody and penned in the common tongue
- Written as a direct reaction to the somber music of the 15<sup>th</sup> century church







# Tidings of comfort and joy

What does “tidings” mean?

1. A tiding is a flock of magpies
2. Tidings are pieces of information or news



# God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

May God make you mighty, honored ones,  
because of the news that God acted in  
history, just as he said he would, in a verifiable  
way, for all people, to save us from sin.



# Sometimes we sing to each other

- <sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre!
- <sup>8</sup> He covers the heavens with clouds;  
he prepares rain for the earth;  
he makes grass grow on the hills.

Psalm 147:7-8